


MEMORANDUM

United States Department of Education
Washington, DC 20202

DATE: February 15, 2006

TO: Rachel F. Potter
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Office of Management and Budget

FROM: Jon Utz 
Policy Liaison and Implementation
Federal Student Aid
U.S. Department of Education

SUBJECT: Request for extension of the Federal PLUS Loan Master Promissory Note, Endorser Addendum, and School Certification (OMB No. 1845-0069)

The Department of Education (the Department) is requesting an extension of the currently approved Federal PLUS Master Promissory Note (MPN) and associated documents.

During the initial 60-day public comment period for this collection, we received comments from two parties, the National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs (NCHELP) and Texas Guaranteed (TG). The submission from TG noted that TG supported and participated in preparing the comments submitted by NCHELP.

NCHELP submitted suggestions for numerous changes that they believed would improve the current Federal PLUS Loan MPN. However, NCHELP also noted that legislative activities to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (the HEA) were underway. NCHELP therefore recommended that the Department prepare a single revision of the MPN at a later date which would address both NCHELP's suggested changes as well as any additional changes required by the expected amendments to the HEA. NCHELP believed that this approach would be less burdensome to the Department, schools, and the FFEL Program community, since it would avoid the need for these parties to implement one revised MPN now and a second revision later to accommodate changes to the HEA.

The Department agrees with NCHELP's recommendation. Therefore, the Department is requesting an extension of the currently approved MPN without any changes for a period of two years. At a later date, the Department will prepare a revised MPN that reflects changes required by the Higher Education Reconciliation Act of 2005 (enacted into law after the submission of the comments from NCHELP and TG) as well as any additional changes required by a reauthorization of the HEA, should a reauthorization occur later this year. At that time, the Department will also consider the suggested changes submitted by NCHELP during the 60-day comment period.

Thank you for your assistance with this request. Please contact me at (202) 377-4040 or by e-mail (jon.utz@ed.gov) if you have any questions.